

Depot Town Rag

1985
DECEMBER MEETINGS:

Victorian Holiday Open Houses -
Dec. 1, all day
Our Lady's Madrigal Singers -
Dec. 1, 5 p.m.
Foundation - Dec. 5, 8 p.m.

Country Christmas Parade
Starts Here
December 12, 5:30 p.m.

Association - Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

MY TOWN

by Retta M. Power

I do not live on an avenue as many city
people do.
No, my abode is close to the track
where smoke comes down
in clouds of black;
Where switching's done both day and
night,
and trains roll by with right of way
While we stand by - wait and wait -
the trains go by with precious freight.
As blinkers blind,
and rain pours down
For all that goes for a railroad town.
But in spite all that I love it all -
The engine's lusty signal call;
The screeching brakes
and hissing steam'
The lights at night
red, yellow, green;
I like to see the wheels go round,
to hear the slack and bumping sound,
To watch the smoke,
when the air is clear
Then, oft fantastic forms appear.
But best of all, when day is done
To see the late and setting sun
Cast shades of rose on smoke that's white
As if to say, "All's well tonight."
And again at morn, as if to greet
The town where rail and highways meet.

(ed: We found Ms. Power's poem on the wall
of the depot in Durand on last May's train
excursion and felt it fit Ypsilanti's Depot
district, as well. Seems a railroad town's
Christmas lights and colors last all year.)



AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

(ed: Regular readers must concede that The Rag's format has become most regular and predictable, so, just for this very special month, we depart from that pattern to offer up a "Holiday Greeting" to our many friends in Depot Town. We've reprinted Willard Espy's drawings of his Oregon home town, simply because it seems so much like our own: old fashioned, warm and loveable. Happy Holidays.)

The rebirth of 19th Century spirit continues as we celebrate a Victorian Holiday on the streets of Ypsilanti's Historic Depot Town.

December first saw open houses up and down the block, concerts, strollers and beautifully decorated windows. As the festive month continues, more and more folks are finding old time values are still alive in the old neighborhood. Welcome back to what America Was!

CHRISTMAS
as it used to be—

DOWN IN
DEPOT TOWN

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies

46 E. Cross • 482-2124
DEPOT TOWN, YPSILANTI

Ted's AUTO ELECTRIC

307 N., River St. Ypsilanti, Michigan
Phone 483-1238

Be sure to visit the Farmers' Market Freight House this holiday season. WEEKLY CRAFT AND GIFT BAZAARS will feature over forty area resident artists (on a rotating basis) exhibiting their handcrafted wares.

The variety is endless:

- framed and matted photographs
- print • pottery • crochet
- Christmas decorations
- Wreaths • art items for kids
- cyprus clocks • needlepoint
- stained glass • woodcrafts
- ceramics and more.

They're a friendly bunch.

Stop in and say "hi", and admire their work.

and everything nice

Clothing Gifts Toys Books

THE KIDS' SHOP IN DEPOT TOWN
27 East Cross
483-6925

There are some major changes coming up for And Everything Nice, Depot Town's favorite kids' shop. After five and a half years at 27 East Cross Street, the business will be closing on December 22 due to the early retirement of owner Bonni Rosen. "I've very much enjoyed the experience of being a retailer in Depot Town, remarked Rosen. "I'll certainly miss my customers and I feel a bit sad; but as a property owner, I'm thrilled to have the chance to upgrade the use of the storefront space." Starting January, 1986, The Cricket Box, a specialty gift and card shop owned by the partnership of Russ and Mollie Neives and Marge and Dave Gauntlett, will occupy 27 East Cross with the plan of opening for business by March 1.

"The Cricket Box looks like it's going to be a very classy operation," continued Rosen. "I saw some examples of the type of merchandise they plan to carry and was very impressed. For those of my customers who were looking for unique toys for children or shower gifts, I think that this new place will satisfy that need. As far as the need for secondhand clothing is concerned, I have heard that another resale shop is opening in the area and they plan to carry kids' things."

Rosen plans to spend her retirement years working on a little tax deduction with partner Ed Fine.

Store hours for And Everything Nice until December 22 are: Sundays noon to 4, Monday-Friday 11-6, Saturdays 10-5. There will be frequent unannounced evening hours in addition to the regular hours. Call 483-6925 to confirm.

Stop in to see this month's special on men's pants and knit hats and earmuffs - all drastically marked down. Some racks, store furnishings and display supplies are still available for sale at very low prices.

Richard C. Laflin

310 N. River
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
487-1510

B & D RETAIL PLUMBING and HEATING, INC.

IKE'S
DEPOT
TOWN
BARBER
SHOP

40
E. CROSS
YPSILANTI
483-6300

**FREIGHTHOUSE
HOLIDAY BAZAARS!**

AT
YPSI'S
FARMER'S
MARKET!

IN
HISTORIC
DEPOT
TOWN

**WEEKLY
SATURDAY
SHOWS!**

8AM - 3PM DEC. 7th, 14th, 21st

SWEET CIDER & APPLES, BAKED GOODS, FRESH DONUTS & PRODUCE TOO
QUALITY CRAFTS, GIFTS & DECORATIONS FOR ALL AGES!
NEW EXHIBITORS & GOODS WEEKLY!

Miller's
ICE CREAM

(313)485-7546

42 East Cross Street, Depot Town
OPEN ALL YEAR
Hours M-S 12:00 - 9:00
Sun. 1:00 - 9:00

Have An Old Fashioned Christmas With-
Ice Cream Santas Christmas Trees
Snowmen Gingerbread Men
(Box of 6 - \$1.98)

Gift Certificates Available
Miller's T-Shirts and aprons
make great Christmas gifts!

Old Town
RESTAURANT

Home Cooked
Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner
Historic Depot Town

YOU'LL FIND ALL THE FOOD FIXINS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY FEASTS, TOO.

• Halab meats offering the freshest chicken and turkey in the county with grain-fed beef from the freezer. (order early)

• Fred and Janice Karpo with the finest cider and apple display in town - can't beat \$2.50 a gallon cider!

• Reinhardt Farms with a full selection of produce. Locally grown and shipped in variety, too.

• You'll be tempted by Matt's tasty donuts (watch them being made on the spot) and home-grown carrots - his specialty.

Den Croff, Uncle Pete and Cousin Linda will be stopping by to sing country for you - warming 'round the pot-bellied wood stove in the coffee shop - with Estella's special hospitality.

All in all, it's the biggest year yet for colorful displays, Christmas carols and festive celebrations in the Depot Town Freight House! Come share in the good times and good cheer this year.

Wishing you a safe and joyous Holiday: All the farmers, exhibitors and staff at the Ypsilanti Farmers' Market.



Any Everything Nice will still exist in the form of a small home enterprise and the very popular name bibs, barrettes and accessories by Marlene can still be ordered by calling 434-6527.

"The theme for my holiday window this year is 'The Best Christmas Ever'," concluded Rosen. "I fondly wish that for all my customers and friends. Many thanks to all for making my years in Depot Town so pleasant. Even though my shop is closing, my husband and I will continue to own our neat old building and I plan to continue as an active property owner. Maybe more active. It looks like I'll finally have the time to get cracking on that Depot Town cookbook."

coming this spring

The Cricket Box

a specialty gift & card shop
to 27 east cross street

T.H.E. Market

"To your good health"
FOR YOUR
NUTRITIONAL NEEDS
19 E. Cross 485-2711
Depot Town Ypsilanti

Eggs	Milk	Grains	Produce	Nuts	Dried Fruits
Pasta	Breads	Juices		Goats Milk	Tempeh
Herbs	Canned Goods			Teas	Spices
Yogurt				Tofu	Beans

YPSI FOOD CO-OP

312 N. River 483-1520
Sun. 12 - 4 Mon. - Fri. 10 - 7 Sat. 9 - 6

THE YPSI FOOD CO-OP, like the rest of Depot town, is getting ready for the holidays. We try to carry gift items that are ecologically sound and not too damaging to the pocketbook. Some of the things we think might make special gifts are: cloth coffee filters or a tea strainer with a bag of your favorite coffee or tea, specially sweet smelling soaps, a luffa sponge and a bag of bathing herbs, a 'greater grater' (a grater with a measuring device attached) and a loaf of some delicious cheese; a stainless colander and a colorful variety of pastas and quick sauces. We carry lots of other gift possibilities. Come in and look around with a creative eye. Don't resort to junky stuff - enjoy holiday shopping this year.

The Education Outreach Program at the Co-op is continuing monthly presentations at the Ypsi Senior Recreation Center in Congress Park. The December 3 topic is protein - why and where? The presentation will take place at 10 a.m. Presenters will explore the protein myths

and facts: Do we eat enough protein? Too much? Is meat the 'best' protein source?

COOKING ENCOUNTERS: Saturday, December 14 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the co-op. Recipes, samples and information for SCANDINAVIAN CUISINE.

SIDETRACK

GOOD FOOD GOOD DRINKS GOOD TIMES

Located in historic Depot Town
56 E. Cross, Ypsilanti
483-1035

With new windows and sills, The Sidetracks's east wall has been tuck-pointed and painted to match Depot Exchange's adjoining wall. The two buildings wrap in a double 'L' around the space of the former tobacco shop which was knocked down in the same 1939 train wreck and did in the rest of the depot and the signal tower. With the Sidetrack so close to the tracks, west-bound passengers on Amtrak certainly get a good impression of this little railroad town as they fly by. Maybe that's why we're getting extra whistles from the engineers, lately?



The **YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM** will be open in the evening of December 19th and 20th from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Don't miss this special holiday opportunity!

PRONTO

PIZZA & SUBS
37 E. CROSS • DEPOT TOWN
YPSILANTI

483-4555

SUN-THU 4-12 FRI & SAT 4-2

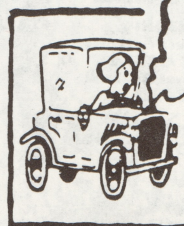
Free Delivery
on orders over \$4.00



Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan

AUBREE'S SECOND FLOOR IN DECEMBER

- 6 Willie D. Warren - Blues
- 7 Progressive Blues Band - Blues
- 13 Juanita McCray - Blues
- 14 Blue Front Persuaders - Jitterbug
- 20 Peter 'Madcat' Ruth - Blues (Cover \$2)
- 21 Progressive Blues Band - Blues
- 27, 28 Chicago Pete & The Detroiters - Blues



CITY RADIATOR

110 N. River
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

483-2248

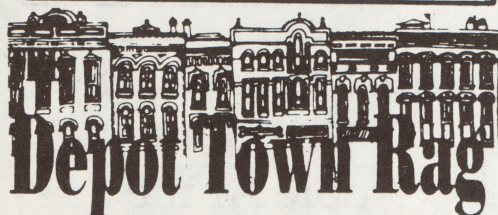
River Art Works' recent remodeling of their showroom shows off their framing samples and customer products on newly-white walls washed by artful lighting from above. The new center show case and display area with surrounding traffic pattern add display space and visual organization which seem to expand the showroom by six feet in each direction. The wall-to-wall carpeting and red director's chairs create a comfortable setting for planning your framing, matting and display needs. River Art Works continues a tradition of fine craftsmanship which began in 1979. It's an excellent place to prepare those surprise Christmas gifts for the family.



**CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
482-8785**

Free Print with Framing Order for
mentioning this ad thru Christmas

48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN



THE DEPOT TOWN RAG:

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

Gary McKeever, president

(DTA: The caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48198)

Annual dues:

Associate member\$10
Regular member\$25
Sustaining member\$100

D.T.A. 21 November 1985

Vice President Meadows opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. President McKeever took over at 7:45 p.m.

THE CRICKET BOX: Dave Gauntlett and Russ Neivins announced their plans to open a specialty gift shop at 27 East Cross next spring.

MINUTES of October meeting were read and approved.

TREASURY balance = \$7113.16,
General = \$3890.20, Rag = \$512.28,
Jazz = \$1400.00, Special = \$1310.68.

JONESVILLE'S Victorian Christmas is the theme of the Society of Architectural Historians Sunday, December 7th.

DECEMBER'S QUARTERLY MEETING will be the Victorian Christmas kick-off Sunday, December 1st and will feature Our Lady's Madrigal Singers at Aubree's.

HOLIDAY ROPING is available from Hon's Flowers at \$18 for sixty feet, \$2 for plastic bows.

BANNER PROPOSAL will soon be made by Fetters, Andrews, McKeever and Dodd for seasonal light pole decorations in the block.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH needs strengthening due to recent shoplifting and casing of shops for break-ins. Be aware that you are being looked over. Double check locks and windows.

CABOOSE REPAIR continues under Van Mertz' ministrations. Steps are complete. Roof and sidebards need volunteer help on Saturdays. Permit for repairs is posted.

PHOTO PROMO with *The Detroit Free Press* took place last month at Vintage Passion to boost the Victorian Holiday theme.

BULK MAIL/MARRIAGE MAILING: Possibilities will be proposed at next meeting by Paul Fetters and Russ Neivins.

FOUNDATION: City planner, Mary Steffe has presented concerns over ordinance for parking to accompany upper-story development. Signage proposal has been lumped together with Downtown's and Campus Town's.

JAZZ: Winter Series mailing is ready to go for third Saturday of January, February and March. \$12,000 total expense. Single tickets are \$8, season tickets \$21. Profits will come from bar, food and T-shirts. Set up - Paul Fetters, door & tickets - Eric Ward, security - Meadows and Dodd, Bar - Rex Richie and Barbara Lohr, stage management - Laura Bucknett, out sales - Barbara Glover and Jim Dulzo. Clean-up volunteers are still needed. See Carolyn McKeever.

ADJOURNED at 8:52.

DEAR RAG:

Let's make this a **HOMELY** Christmas for 1985. Homely in the sense of simple, intimate, and without fanfare.

How many of us do our Christmas shopping in this neighborhood? It seems that we spend all year telling people how wonderful we are, and then we head out to "Buyerworld" or "A-Bore-Land" to seek out the plastic Santa. With a little imagination, we can see that there are so many possibilities in our own Depot Town. There are several restaurants and bars from which you could give a gift certificate, ie: OLD TOWN, SIDETRACK, MILLER'S, AUBREE'S, PRONTO PIZZA, PAPONETTI'S; or a lovely wreath or plant from HON'S. How about an antique or collectible from NOW & THEN, VINTAGE PASSION, JIM MACDONALD, APPLE ANNIE, NORTH RIVER ANTIQUES, STRIP/EASE or DEPOT EXCHANGE? From rustic to Eastlake to Art Deco, they have it all.

Try **BIG BOB'S** for a poster and **RIVER ART WORKS** to have it framed; candy and goodies from the **CANDY SHOPPE**; cards, gifts, stuffed animals from the **GRAND TRUNK, LTD.** (Christmas trees out in back of GTL - profits to a worthy cause); some gourmet coffee from **T.H.E. MARKET**; toys from **AND EVERYTHING NICE**; accessories from **JACKIE**; a new look from **IKE** or **KATHY**; jewels from **OLD TOWN COIN AND GOLD**, and on and on. Maybe it's time to paint a Christmas village from **J & J PLASTERCRAFT**; or buy personalized printing (Letterheads, Envelopes, Business Cards, etc.) from **STANDARD PRINTING COMPANY**.

It seems ironic that at the greatest shopping time of the year many of us choose to take our hard earned \$ somewhere else where they (\$) will be shipped to corporate headquarters in a large metropolitan area where they (\$) buy executive limos, business lunches, and country club memberships. A dollar spent in Depot Town goes to fix the roof, pay the rent, plant flowers, and build our equities so that all of us will benefit.

Why not put your imagination and feet to work and shop here first? Shun the bright lights and plastic hype and enjoy Christmas Shopping in our Depot Town businesses where you'll find lots of gift ideas, friendly, courteous business owners, free gift wrapping, and the gentle atmosphere of how things used to be.

Happy Holidays to all

From the Grand Trunk, Ltd.

Kathy, Rosemary, Norm, Mike, and Dawn.

Specializing in Unusual & Different Costume Jewelry



VINTAGE PASSION
Antiques - Collectables - Art Deco
Vintage Clothing and Accessories
Tuesday - Saturday: 11:00 to 6:00
Sunday Noon to 5:00
32 E. Cross St.
Historic Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
Owner
Linda J. Williams

We at **VINTAGE PASSION** would like to thank the people of Ypsilanti and customers old and new for the continuing loyalty and support to the businesses of Depot Town. As in the past events held here, we all are ready with good food and unusual gifts for Victorian Christmas 1985. Everyone has worked hard to always present to the finest. Without you, the on-going Depot Town project would be just a dream. Looking forward to serving you again this year - Linda Williams.





BIG BOB'S
MAGAZINE AND
FANTASY EMPORIUM
50 East Cross
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(313) 485-4930
Monday - Wednesday 11-6
Friday 11-7, Saturday 11-6, Sunday 10-2
CLOSED THURSDAY'S

Jim MacDonald's
Antiques
Apple Annie's
Vintage Clothing
29 East Cross • 481-0555
Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 Sunday 12-4

DEPOT EXCHANGE ANTIQUES
34 East Cross Street
Professional Furniture Stripping & Refinishing
10% off to RAG Readers
WE BUY AND SELL ANTIQUES

A VICTORIAN STOREFRONT IS MISSING

(ed: The following poem accompanies the slide show which documents the repainting of the facade on Linda Williams' *VINTAGE PASSION* at 32 E. Cross. The good news is: the second half of the show puts the facade back onto the building. It's available for group meetings and parties and has a sing-along chorus.)

Some thieves have stolen a building
That was very well known on this block.
They're taking away all our history.
The district's been put into hock.

The neighborhood grocery is gone, now.
It's been taken from under our nose.
It stood for so long on East Cross Street
Some say that's the way that it goes.

Just a small store on the corner,
It stood here from many a year.
They've bricked the facade in completely.
The architect's ghost sheds a tear.

The Italianate cornice was modest,
And its brackets were pure middle class.
We shopped there for years for our staples.
How ever could this come to pass?

The sign was a board that was painted
And nailed up right over the door.
No neon electric was needed:
That's what the shop window was for.
With cast iron arches and plate glass,
The shop windows shone like a jewel.
And entrance with transom and sidelights.
How could anyone be so cruel?

The window designs were so honest:
A simple display of their wares.
No slick advertising was needed.
Is it true now that nobody cares?

Now bricks and blocks fill in the spaces
They're painted all one shade of brown.
If our places keep loosing their faces
We'll be an anonymous town.

The Historic District Commission
Has put this abuse to the test.
Such careless abandon is reckless,
Sometimes the old ways are best.

A Victorian store front is missing'
The neighborhood sheds a sad tear.
If a highway mentality rules us,
Will we soon see a vacant lot here?

Let's keep Christ in Christmas!

STANDARD PRINTING

Serving Ypsilanti in
Historic Depot Town
Since 1939

35 E. Cross 483-0339

OUTSTANDING IN THE STREET The View Is Spectacular

Maryann and Raymond Woodard agreed to act as judges for this year's spectacular window displays for Victorian Holidays. Their only requisite was that each display deserved a prize to fit its theme. They 'judged' our efforts the night of November 30 and the results will be in the next edition of The Rag.

LATE BLOOMERS

North River Antiques' Victorian front garden was one of the nicest displays this past season - and the Farmers' Market garden next to Aubree's became a spectacular array of hardy Marigolds which lasted long into the fall and early winter. This summer's frequent rains made for a rich and long growing season. Many thanks to the district's gardeners for helping it along.

CABOOSE AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL

Depot Town Association's more-than hundred-year-old caboose is the perfect place for a private party. Turn up the electric baseboard heating and bring up to a dozen friends for a dinner, buffet or meeting. It's as cozy as a cottage "up north" and it's right here in River City. Call Jerry Meadows to reserve this unique space at most reasonable prices. 485-2218

NEW CURB

The new curb installed by the City extends from the main corner to the Freight House and may keep parked cars from hitting the fence - which keeps folks from crossing the railroad tracks.

THE WAILING WALL

The east wall of James MacDonald's and Apple Annie's building is about to be completely replaced. Never intended as an exterior wall, it was exposed by the destruction of another building which burned about fifteen years ago. Since that time, it's been twisting and turning to the changes of temperature and a dangerous crack has appeared along the facade. Owners, Gary and Carolyn McKeever intend to replace it with a three story cement block wall, then face it with brick. The new design will also include porches, windows and doors from the upstairs apartments.

THANKS

Thanks for Hallowe'en party ministrations to Matt Krakowiak, Fred Karpo, Betty Wood, and all the usual volunteers for neighborhood events. EMU's Little Theatre of the Young presented a delightful Korean folk-tale. Madame Rosa, of And Everything Nice, told fortunes while Linda Williams, of Vintage Passion, and the folks at J & J Plastercraft donated the many prizes for over two hundred costumed kids.

the Depot Town WEMU



SERIES 86

PRODUCED BY
THE DEPOT TOWN
ASSOCIATION AND
EASTERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY'S
PUBLIC RADIO
STATION WEMU

CONCERTS happen in the Farmers Market Building in Ypsilanti's Depot Town. Tickets are \$8 at Schoolkids Records, P.J.'s Records and the Little Professor Bookstore in Ann Arbor, at The Backstory Party Store, Tom's Party Store, most Depot Town businesses and WEMU in Ypsilanti, and at the door. Doors open at 6:30; music starts at 7 p.m. Come early for a good seat and a good, inexpensive dinner. Full cash bar and beverage services. Call 487-2228.

JANUARY 18
SATURDAY
• THE LUNAR GLEE CLUB
• THE J.C. HEARD ORCHESTRA

FEBRUARY 15
SATURDAY
• THE REED/ANDERSON TRIO
• KENN COX AND THE
GUERRILLA JAM BAND
• THE PROGRESSIVE BLUES BAND
PLUS JUANITA MCCRAY

MARCH 15
SATURDAY
• RUSSELL GREEN AND
JERRY NEELY
• TOM SAUNDERS
AND THE SURFSIDE SIX
• AMIGO

Great Gift Idea! Season Tickets \$21 each.